

SIDNEY AND BEATRICE WEBB

officers of her own to work The Chairman—Lord George Hamilton—was snowed under by her Memoranda Members and witnesses were "nobbled" They were taken to lunch or dine at Grosvenor Road, where points they had not thought of were put to them

Most illuminating, on her methods of work and of persuasion, or where persuasion failed, of stampede, are the notes from her Diary at the time, quoted in *English Poor Law History*, volume II (The notes which are not there quoted would make still more exhilarating reading, no doubt) From the first she says, it was clear to her that a head-on collision with their old friend John Bums, whom Campbell-Bannerman had made President of the Local Government Board, had got to be faced. He was in the hands of his officials. Four of the biggest of those officials were on the Commission. J. S. Davy, the arch-enemy, was not, but his evidence, taken early and occupying several days, was a forthright re-assertion of the "principles of 1834". The first sitting of the Commission took place in December 1905, by February, she is noting that

"Charles Booth blames me for having raised the hostility of the L. G. B. He may be right. On the other hand, if one begins by being disagreeable, one may come in the end to a better bargain."

At this point, she had just had a fracas with Sir Samuel Provis. A month later, she had, * a most friendly chat, and he comes to dine to meet a carefully selected party on Wednesday. "She goes on, in the same

entry, to say,
"I no longer find intercourse with my fellow
Commissioners
disagreeable "

In May, she is annoyed again, the
Commission is

"lumbering along There is lack of method and
discipline,
with which some of us get impatient, and I
sometimes offend
by my easy-going ways—intervening when I ought
to hold my